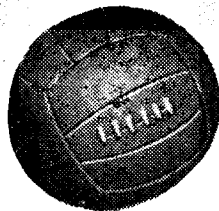


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Saturday, 17th July, 1948.

"Overboard" By F. J. HALL

As in many previous years, we again read of teams who have acquitted themselves with great credit in League games, but who have gone "overboard" to a more lowly side in the Cup matches.

This is not a new thing in Soccer, although everyone seems to express surprise when it happens. The history of Cup football in every country produces surprises, and there does not seem to be any real standard reason why such results do happen. Look if you will at a long list of winners of the English Cup, and then review the relevant League position of the winning team, and you will find the same surprising set of circumstances that are occurring annually in this State.

Some people suggest that the condition of the players' nerves on the big day, has something to do with the ultimate result of a game. I do not contribute wholly to that theory, although it may have some slight bearing on the play. History shows that Cup matches are played differently. The scientific technique evident in League matches is often entirely absent in a Cup game. High grade teams are "bustled out" of it by vigorous opponents, whose sole objective is to drive the stylists from their usual form.

There are some teams in British football whose pattern of play in Cup games is of the "bulldozer" type. They simply refuse to allow the more scientific side to settle down. In short, they dictate the style of their opponents.

Unfortunately for the more scientific team, they often have to reply by playing the dictated game, and the result is defeat, perhaps by a very small margin. The same thing applies to the Dockerty Cup competition.

Some teams succeed in carrying a game, not because they possess high grade ability or experience, but simply because they possess Cup fighting spirit.

A certain type of fighting spirit furnishes one of the most powerful of all the qualifications which contribute to success. There are players who overcome obstacles because they possess the spirit to do so. What they lack in stature, they make up in spirit and dogged determination to win at all costs.

Some sporting writers, too early in the season, risk their reputation by reviewing Cup matches and "tipping winners" in the same fashion as racehorses—on form. Fancied candidates in a big race nearly always run true to form, though they do not always win.

Too many teams "go overboard" for me to venture a forecast yet, although there does appear to me to be a "dark horse" still in the competition, which, if it can induce the wing forwards to adopt a style of play which is usually shown by its full backs—they should win the Cup this year.

Now you coaches and trainers of the teams still in the Dockerty Cup—let's have some hard thinking—my forecast may indicate your team.

A BRIEF REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S GAMES

Positions on the Division One Championship Ladder were unchanged after last Saturday's League games, but Prahran's defeat of the leaders, Sunshine, placed them in a fairly safe position to avoid relegation.

Sunshine however, are now only a point in front, and will now have to go all out if it expects to win the premiership. Box Hill, can now see that they have a good chance, and August 7, when these two teams meet, should decide the premiership. Sunshine have yet to meet Yallourn and Park Rangers, both at home, whilst Box Hill are to meet the same two teams, away.

All three bottom teams, Yallourn, Moreland and Western Suburbs lost again on Saturday, so the position as to relegation is still obscure.

Second Division

In the Second Division, Bradford went further ahead in the premiership race, through South Melbourne United's defeat by Coburg. Bradford will now have to fall down to be beaten. The interest now in this division, is, who will accompany Bradford into the First Division. Both South Yarra and South Melbourne are level on points for second place, but South Yarra has a slightly better goal average. Coburg too, are not out of the race, as they are only one point behind again. They, however, will have to beat South Yarra next Saturday, to have any hopes for promotion. South Melbourne, South Yarra and Coburg, will be all out now to gain that coveted second position, for if any of them miss a point in the remaining three League matches, they can say goodbye to their prospects of the First Division for season 1949.

Ringwood and Northcote cannot possibly better themselves, and cannot fail to go to Third Division next season.

Third Division

It seems improbable that a second round of games will be played in the Third Division and with only two games to go to complete the first round, Melbourne University appears safe for the premiership and ultimate promotion to the higher division. A race between Heidelberg "A," Olympic, George Cross and Yarraville, for the second team to go up, is

emminent, and it is possible that goal average may decide the issue, which is very much in Heidelberg's favor.

In the Reserve League, Division One seems set for Brighton, whilst South Yarra should be successful on Division Two.

Of the Junior League, it is too early yet to forecast the possible winners in the Under 19 Grade, but South Melbourne appear to have a fairly firm grip on the two lower junior divisions.



NEXT SATURDAY' GAMES

First Division

Brighton v. Prahran, at Olympic Park
Park Rangers v. Box Hill, at Middle Park
Moreland v. Western Suburbs
Sunshine United v. Yallourn

Second Yallourn

Coburg v. South Yarra
Preston v. Bradford
Northcote v. Hakoah J.R.C., at Merri Park
Ringwood v. South Melbourne United

Third Division

George Cross v. Brighton, at Royal Park
Heidelberg "B" v. Woodlands
Williamstown v. Yarraville, at Newport
Regent v. Olympic
Metters v. Melbourne University, at Footscray
Macedonians v. Heidelberg "A." at Yarra Park

Reserve League

Same draw as for First and Second Division, but on opposite grounds.

Under 19 Division

Box Hill v. Preston
Western Suburbs v. Park Rangers, at Sunshine
South Yarra v. Hakoah J.R.C., at Fawkner Park
Prahran v. Brighton, at Como Park
Coburg v. Yallourn

Under 17 Division

South Melbourne United v. Coburg, at Middle Park
Sunshine United v. Brighton
Preston v. Box Hill

Under 15 Division

Preston v. Ringwood
Brighton v. Box Hill
Sunshine United v. South Melbourne United

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

First Division

Brighton 4 d. Yallourn 0.
 Prahran 4 d. Sunshine United 2.
 Park Rangers 3 d. Moreland 1.
 Box Hill 4 d. Western Suburbs 2.

Second Division

Coburg 2 d. South Melbourne United 0.
 South Yarra 8 d. Ringwood 1.
 Preston 4 d. Northcote 0.
 Bradford 4 d. Hakoah J.R.C. 1.

Third Division

Macedonians 2 d. Brighton 1.
 Yarraville 11 d. Heidelberg "B" 0.
 Olympic 2 d. Heidelberg "A" 0.
 Melb. University 4 d. George Cross 1.
 Woodlands 5 d. Metters 3.
 Williamstown, walk-over from Regent.

First Division Reserves

Brighton v. Yallourn, no result.
 Sunshine United 3 d. Prahran 1.
 Park Rangers 5 d. Moreland 1.
 Box Hill 3 d. Western Suburbs 1.

Second Division Reserves

South Melbourne United, walk-over from Coburg.
 South Yarra 2 d. Ringwood 0.
 Preston 5 d. Northcote 1.
 Bradford 3 d. Hakoah J.R.C. 0.

Under 19 Division

Prahran 4 d. Preston 3.
 Park Rangers 11 d. South Yarra 0.
 Yallourn 4 d. Box Hill 0.
 Brighton 2 d. Hakoah J.R.C. 0.
 Coburg 1 drew with Western Suburbs 1.

Under 17 Division

South Melbourne United 3 (Thwaites 2, Gleave) d. Sunshine United 0.
 Brighton 2 d. Preston 0.
 Box Hill, walk-over from Coburg.

Under 15 Division

Preston 3 drew with South Melbourne United 3 (Stiles 3).
 Ringwood 2 d. Sunshine United 1.
 Brighton 8 d. Northcote 0.

CLUB JOTTINGS

Prahran Down The Division Leaders

(By "Pommeysgranite")

An Irish professional soccer player summed up this match, and these are some of his impressions—"Prahran, they stuck to it and were lucky; Sunshine had too many forwards."

Prahran faced a stiff breeze at the kick-off and pressed hard for an opening goal, which came within five minutes of the commencement. This seemed to galvanise Sunshine into action, and the hard pressed Prahran defenders were unfortunate, and being penalised, gave Drennan of Sunshine a goal from the penalty spot.

Prahran, playing the third-back game, with centre-half Bird working very hard, and the goalkeeper excelling himself, kept off a well co-ordinated attack. Long, hard kicking gave Prahran opportunities, with a Sunshine defence depending on their full backs and goalkeeper to ward off these surprise raids.

One of Prahran's goals just trickled over the line, followed by another into an open goal, the Sunshine keeper being hard pressed by L. Bird, outside-left for Prahran, who robbed him of the ball, and placed it smartly into the open goal.

Outside-left, Jamieson made some constructive centres, one of which scored a goal, and yet another gave L. Bird a first class cleanly headed chance, which had the goalkeeper beaten all the way. Final scores 4-2 in favour of Prahran. Goal scorers for the successful team were—L. Bird 3 and Jamieson; and for Sunshine—Kyle and Drennan.

A Sunshine half-back unfortunately left the field injured, and weakened the defence, but the Irishman remarked that he allowed for this in his "too many forwards."

Agony Column—"Irish too") Prahran should try and play more as a team, not eleven men.

South Yarra Wins Well

The teams—South Yarra: Callander, G. Sharp, Bradd, Däll, T. Sharp, Cameron, Duff, Friend, Stoddart, Lott, Sharman. Ringwood: Drinkwater Richards, Ramsay, Carroll, Walker, Mackie, Peden, Bray, Wheelan, Abberton, Hamilton.

Early exchanges in this match were pretty even both sides striving hard for the lead. Good work by South Yarra forwards, who keeping the ball moving from one to another resulted in Stoddart putting Yarra in front with a well placed shot. Yarra did not have their lead for long however, for Ringwood were awarded a penalty from which Richards put Ringwood on level terms.

Ringwood livened up after this, and kept Yarra's defence busy, but G. Sharp and Bradd were defending well, with Callander seeing them well and on the alert. Good work on Yarra's right wing saw them take the lead, when a well placed corner from Duff gave Friend the opportunity to score with a neat header. Half time scores: South Yarra 2, Ringwood 1.

Shortly after the resumption, Yarra's half backs took a firm grip of the game, and their forwards soon went ahead when goals came from Stoddart, Sharman and Duff putting Yarra well in front, and soon after, T. Sharp scored from a penalty.

Ringwood players made several positional changes but it did not improve their play, and further goals were added by Stoddart, who was in good shooting form.

Final result was 8-1 in favour of South Yarra.

Goal scorers for the winning team were: Stoddart 4, Sharp, Duff, Sharman, Friend. For Ringwood: Richards was their scorer.

Big And Little "Hutch"

Several changes were made in the Box Hill team which defeated Western Suburbs last Saturday at Sunshine. The game was in the nature of a cup try-out for several players, all of whom acquitted themselves with distinction. The Hutchinsons were among the goals again, Don securing one, and Lester two.

Brighton's New Arrivals From Overseas

Two recent arrivals to Australia, Jack Glover and Reg Clarke, have been signed on by Brighton, and were given a try-out in the first team against Yallourn. Both acquitted themselves fairly well, but were badly in need of a run. Glover in particular shows promise of becoming decidedly useful to the Club.

Social

Visitors from Preston, Prahran and South Yarra, were present at a ball held in the Brighton Town Hall last Saturday night. All present appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves. The next dance of the Brighton Club will be held at the local Town Hall on August 6.

Queen Carnival

The various committees of the Brighton Club, sponsoring the three Queens, are flat out organising their particular functions. The success of the carnival seems to be assured, and the Club should benefit considerably financially from the venture.

Personal

Will Mr. Headie please contact the Brighton Club's social Secretary, Mrs. A. Barr, on the ground at their next home game. He will hear something to his advantage.

Game At Moreland Not Impressive

The Division One League game between Moreland and Park Rangers played at Campbell Reserve last Saturday, never reached great heights as a spectacle, and the final result is a reasonable reflection of the merits of both teams.

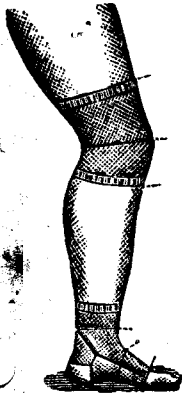
Although kicking against the wind, Moreland scored first, but Park Rangers equalised before half time. In the second half, Rangers scored twice. Not one of the four goals scored in the match was from good shots, each being the result of a scramble in the goal mouth. In general, Moreland were as good as their visitors, their goalkeeper being the best man on the field. They were much quicker to the ball, especially during the first half, but after the interval the Rangers improved in this matter and kept a constant pressure on the tiring home team.

Final result: Rangers 3, Moreland 1.

Bradford Takes Charge Near Finish

The Hakoah v. Bradford Second Division game played at Olympic Park last Saturday, appeared to be a very even contest until about 20 minutes from the end.

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Dunstan opened the score for Hakoah after roughly 30 minutes of play. Shortly afterwards, Baxter evened for Bradford, when the ball jumped back from the cross bar and Baxter directed it smartly into the net.

The score did not change until after half time, and with only about 20 minutes of play left, Bradford broke through and scored their second goal. Hakoah slackened at this stage, and Bradford taking advantage, took command and added another two goals before the finish.

At Bradford's ground, Hakoah Reserves played with only 9 men and lost 3-0 after a game struggle.

Mountford Scores Hat-trick For Box Hill

Western Suburbs Reserve team put up a good show at Box Hill on Saturday, but the Hillmen's defence was too strong to be broken down, without a more consistent battering than it received at Surrey Park.

Mountford for Box Hill was on the spot, with three shots which gave the goalie no chance. A good, open, and sporting game.

JUNIOR SECTION

South Best Against The Wind

The Under 17 team of the South Melbourne United Club, in its match against Sunshine on Saturday, failed to score when kicking with the wind in its favour, though many scoring chances were missed. After the change over, they quickly surged to the front with three smart goals, first by Thwaites, then by Gleave, and finally by Thwaites again. This team now has a two point lead on its premiership table, and now have high hopes of annexing both the 1948 premiership and the Miller Cup, in which it is playing the final against Box Hill today at Campbell Reserve, Moreland.

Quick Goals Gives Prahran Winning Lead

In the match, Preston versus Prahran, Preston kicked off with the wind but could not take advantage of it. The Prahran defence safely held the Preston forwards. Two goals were scored in quick succession by Prahran's centre forward "Aust" before Preston could penetrate and score. After several miss-kicks by the Preston backs Prahran netted again. Half Time 3-1.

The second half opened with mid-field play and continued until "Aust" broke away and scored his third goal for Prahran. Excellent feeding by the Prahran half back line was a feature of the game. Preston was awarded a penalty and scored.

Result: Prahran 4, Preston 3.

Best players were—Pepper, Tate, Bailey and "Aust."



Junior Cup And Shield Finals Today

The Miller Cup Final between South Melbourne United and Box Hill Under 17 teams, is to be played this afternoon at Campbell Reserve, Moreland, commencing at 3 p.m.

The curtain raiser, commencing at 1.10 p.m. will be the Dunkling Shield Final between South Melbourne United and Brighton Under 15 teams.

PROSPECTS FOR TO-DAY

Dockerty Cup reaches an interesting stage

The stage is now set for who shall enter the semi-finals of the 1948 Dockerty Cup. With the final round before the semi-finals, being played to-day, and with the extraordinary interest of the two cup favourites being knocked out by South Yarra and Western Suburbs, Clubs now lower down on the premiership lists have more than a fighting chance of qualifying for the final. Four First Division teams in Box Hill, Park Rangers, Western Suburbs, and Yallourn, and four Second Division teams, South Yarra, Coburg, Preston and Bradford, will contest the third round. With the reclassification of the two main divisions this year, it is quite possible that a Second Division team could win the 1948 Cup.

Box Hill (First Division) are now firm favorites, but South Yarra, or Bradford could easily be one of the finalists, and are strong enough to upset any First Division team, especially in a Cup tie.

Park Rangers, Preston and Yallourn, all teams with fast young players, could also win their way into the final, and Western Suburbs, who was successful in knocking Sunshine United out of the Cup, is another team with distinct possibilities.

Coburg, the remaining Second Division team left in the Cup, plays much better when against opposition, and will be a thorn in the side of any team that comes up against them.

So, at this stage, it is quite clear that any of the remaining eight teams left in the Cup could be one of the finalists, and it is almost certain that before this 1948 Dockerty Cup series is finished, some more surprises may be yet seen.

Bradford will have the hardest game in the third round, as Box Hill, second on the First Division ladder is in winning form.

Yallourn is pretty low down on the First Division ladder, but has caused Park Rangers some headaches in League contests played this season. Both teams are comprised of young, keen players, who will be all out to further their chances of winning this coveted trophy.

Preston's style of football may upset the Suburbs team, but Suburbs strong defence will be hard to penetrate.

South Yarra, without their star centre man,

Johnson, may find it hard to penetrate the strong Coburg defence, but if they turn on the same brand of football that knocked Brighton out of the Cup, they may possibly reach the semi-finals, and ultimately the final.



REFEREES ASSOCIATION'S OFFER TO CLUBS

Members of my Association are endeavoring to bring about closer co-operation with Clubs and their members.

This we feel can only be made possible by a better understanding of the laws and general aspects of the game. Uniformity in the application of the laws by all concerned will bring about a decided improvement in the game.

Members of my Association are prepared to attend Club-rooms by appointment for the purpose of a friendly discussion re the laws in general.

Any Club Secretary wishing to take advantage of this offer may do so by contacting the Association Secretary, Mr. E. H. Low, 4 Backhams St., Hampton.

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HOW THEY STAND

First Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pt.
Sunshine United	11	8	1	2	39	16	17
Box Hill	11	7	2	2	37	23	16
Brighton	11	6	2	3	29	19	14
Park Rangers	11	5	2	4	19	21	12
Prahran	11	4	2	5	26	32	10
Yallourn	11	3	1	7	33	39	7
Moreland	11	3	1	7	20	27	7
Western Suburbs	11	1	3	7	12	38	5

Second Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
Bradford	11	8	3	0	33	6	19
South Yarra	11	6	2	3	37	16	14
South Melb. United	11	6	2	3	31	14	14
Coburg	11	6	1	4	33	23	13
Hakoah J.R.C.	11	5	1	5	21	21	11
Preston	11	5	1	5	26	34	11
Ringwood	11	1	1	9	12	42	3
Northcote	11	1	1	9	11	48	3

Third Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
Melb. University	9	7	2	0	41	8	16
Heidelberg "A"	9	6	1	2	46	9	13
George Cross	9	6	1	2	27	15	13
Olympic	8	6	1	1	21	12	13
Yarraville	8	6	0	2	33	22	12
Woodlands	9	4	2	3	21	22	10
Williamstown	9	4	1	4	17	24	9
Acadonians	9	3	1	5	14	25	7
Brighton	9	3	0	6	23	28	6
Metters	9	1	1	7	14	27	3
Regent	9	1	0	8	7	29	2
Heidelberg "B"	9	1	0	8	6	49	2

First Division Reserves

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
Brighton	11	9	2	0	53	10	20
Park Rangers	11	7	2	2	42	17	16
Prahran	11	7	1	3	38	23	15
Box Hill	11	5	1	5	41	24	11
Western Suburbs	11	5	0	6	30	49	10
Yallourn	11	3	1	7	28	47	7
Moreland	11	3	1	7	21	42	7
Sunshine United	11	1	0	10	12	53	2

Second Division Reserves

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pt.
South Yarra	11	11	0	0	38	9	22
South Melb. United	11	9	0	2	52	12	18
Bradford	11	8	0	3	30	14	16
Preston	11	4	2	5	21	20	10
Hakoah J.R.C.	11	4	1	6	7	22	9
Coburg	11	2	2	7	6	16	6
Ringwood	11	2	1	8	9	39	5
Northcote	11	1	0	10	7	38	2

Under 19 Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
Brighton	10	10	0	0	48	4	20
Park Rangers	11	9	0	2	57	10	18
Yallourn	11	8	1	2	34	10	17
Preston	11	5	1	5	29	23	11
Coburg	10	3	4	3	17	20	10
Western Suburbs	11	4	2	5	22	29	10
Prahran	11	3	2	6	23	35	8
Box Hill	10	3	1	6	22	27	7
Hakoah J.R.C.	10	2	1	7	14	33	5
South Yarra	11	0	0	11	2	77	0

Under 17 Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
South Melb. United	11	10	0	1	42	9	20
Preston	11	9	0	2	39	14	18
Brighton	11	7	0	4	34	15	14
Sunshine United	11	3	0	8	18	33	6
Box Hill	11	3	0	8	14	32	6
Coburg	11	1	0	10	4	48	2

Under 15 Division

Club	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pt.
South Melb. United	10	8	2	0	71	8	18
Preston	9	6	3	0	40	7	15
Brighton	9	6	1	2	44	11	13
Box Hill	9	4	0	5	6	31	8
Sunshine United	10	3	0	7	12	50	6
Ringwood	9	3	0	6	8	40	6
Northcote	10	0	0	10	0	34	0

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WHICH ARE YOU!

By A. Jarvis

In soccer more so than in other football codes is it essential for players to learn to kick with either foot, yet in the games we see each week how many players are efficient in this respect.

Players who naturally kick with the right foot should devote part of their weekly training routine to practice kicking with the left foot and they will be surprised how much easier they will make position to receive a pass. The percentage of natural left-footers is usually very small and most Club Selectors have no alternative but to put some players on the left wing which immediately handicaps such player should he be a right foot kick.

We see players who have been in the game a long time playing each week in wrong positions mainly due to this fact, yet neither the players or the Club officials make any systematic effort to alter the position.

All Clubs who operate Schoolboy teams should see that this feature is not forgotten when coaching commences as like everything else in life it is easier to learn when young. It might not be out of place to mention that in some clubs, training by senior players is almost non-existent, and this must affect the standard of play as a team towards the end of a game. Furthermore where the required training to tune up the muscles has not been done players leave themselves open for pulled muscles, etc., especially on the slippery grounds we have had this season. This usually results in standing on the line for a couple of weeks and increases the problems of selectors owing to injuries to players.



SCREEN PUBLICITY

During the forthcoming week the Association's screen slide will be shown at "Northcote Theatre," Northcote, and "Sun Theatre," Yarraville.

